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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

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SUBJECT Economic Conditions in Viet Minh-Controlled
areas of Tonkin

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1. In Intersector I, the Viet Minh exacts a donation of 20 kilos of rice for each mau (3,600 square meters) of rice field cultivated. A donation of an additional 10 kilos is required to compensate for loss of transportation. Inhabitants of villages which have rallied to the Viet Minh are taxed 10 Indochinese piasters instead of paddy.
2. The current price of rice in Thai Nguyen is 200-300 piasters a kilo, because it must be transported from Intersector III. The troops of Intersector I are supplied by a tax of 20-35 kilos on rice producers of Haiduong, Thai Binh and Hung Yen.
3. The Ho Chi Minh piaster decreased in value after the issue of 500-piaster notes by the French. Currently in Thai Nguyen, the Indochinese piaster equals 30 Ho Chi Minh piasters. In August 1950, the French decided against issuing a 1,000-piaster note.
4. At present, functionaries in Intersector I are paid a monthly salary of 35 kilos of rice, instead of being paid in piasters. They must therefore sell the rice in order to buy other food.

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